



People, Animals, and Peer Reviewed Sources: GALILEO for K-5

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Who am I, and what are we doing here?

- I am the school library media specialist at Irwin County Elementary School in Ocilla, Georgia, and a former public librarian
- I'd love to share with you how I successfully marketed a GALILEO database to my school and increased our usage dramatically, during both in person and remote instruction
- We'll talk a bit about how GALILEO buy-in is different in the grade school setting
- And we will wind up with a few words about creating connections at school by offering research assistance to staff members

How is GALILEO usage different at a K-5 school?

- As a former public librarian, I used to love naming databases that might answer user questions....



How is GALILEO usage different at a K-5 school (continued)?

- As I learned more about the school setting, though, I realized that teachers do not have time for all the databases in the world.
- Teachers need a database that is relevant to their course content and curriculum.
- Because of this, it is important to target your offerings for teachers and focus on one or two databases that will provide value and be user-friendly for students

Selecting a database to target for marketing to teachers

- I looked for a database that solved a problem and/or plugged into a research topic that is often covered in the elementary setting
- I wanted to find a product that was superior to what I could offer any other way
- When a class full of kiddos came in one day looking for books about all sorts of exotic animals (many of which I didn't have any materials about), I had an idea
- Two of the most common research projects in elementary school are about people and animals. These two subject areas are perfect for Britannica School Elementary.

How to market your chosen resource to teachers and students

- In addition to solving a problem and plugging into curricular needs, your resource should be easy to learn about and access
- I started making tutorials on YouTube (with my admins' permission) about using Britannica Elementary to research people and animals
- The original idea behind using YouTube was that teachers could watch and/or play the video for their students at their convenience, without taking too much time away from class
- If I had coverage in the media center, I could present the material in person as well
- At first I put the videos behind unlisted links and shared them with teachers

....And then came Covid.

- When we pivoted to remote instruction in 2020, the tutorials provided a guide for accessing GALILEO resources from home
- I created more tutorials and put them on my media center website as well
- Creating the tutorials was challenging from a tech perspective as well as a “goodness, do I really have that strong of an accent?” perspective, but I received great feedback from teachers and parents
- Even after we returned to in person instruction this year, with a few stops at hybrid instruction, the tutorials have been handy and buy-in for Britannica Elementary has increased dramatically

So what do the tutorials look like?

- I was tempted to re-record my admittedly amateur tutorials for this session, but I decided to show you the unretouched version
- I did one tutorial focusing on fourth grade's animal research projects, which include information about the animals' habitats, adaptations, etc.
- My other tutorial focuses on research projects about people in history, which several grades cover
- My goal was to show teachers and students how to access the database and get their information quickly and effectively
- Here they come.....

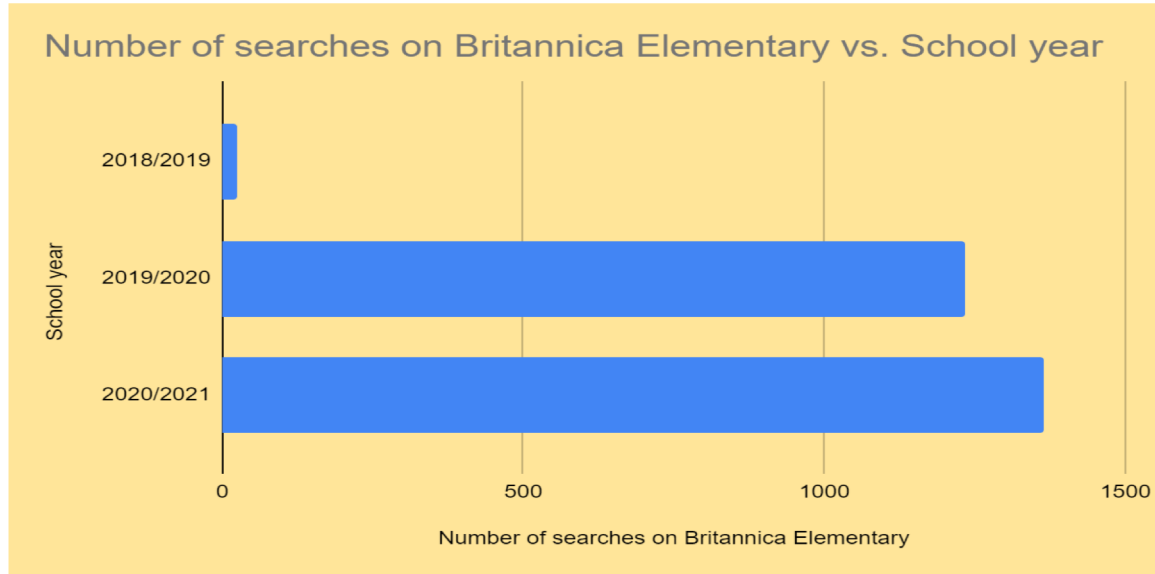
Animal projects via Encyclopedia Britannica

<https://youtu.be/OukBkWFv0RY>

Researching People on Britannica Elementary

<https://youtu.be/1HYPoFcTLs4>

So what were the results?



The results, continued

- I began sharing tutorials in the 2019-2020 school year
- In 2018, there were 24 searches on Encyclopedia Britannica Elementary from Irwin County Schools
- In 2020, there were 1,235
- In 2021, there were 1,364
- Each separate search query from a student counts as a search. So if a student searched for multiple animals or people, each one would count.
- The search data is a more reliable metric than YouTube view count, because in many cases a teacher is showing a YouTube video to the whole class

Want to try GALILEO outreach for your school?

- Watch for opportunities to address a curricular need with a “just right” resource
- Introduce just one resource at a time
- Make professional development quick and (ideally) asynchronous
- Develop videos that teachers can show their students as well
- There’s no need for fancy tools. I used a gaming headset/microphone and Screencastify (free for educators) or Screencast-O-Matic for my tutorials
- Don’t be afraid of how you look or sound. The important thing is getting it done.

Before questions, one quick word

- At a school, as well as everywhere else, relationships are key
- As a librarian/media specialist/wizard/whatever term you prefer, you are uniquely positioned to help people access information (in a perfect world, at least)
- One way to get to know your coworkers and help out where you can is to show people how to access GALILEO databases as they work toward advanced degrees
- Just a few minutes of demonstrating how to sort by peer reviewed sources, etc., can save your friends a lot of time and exercise your research muscles as well
- As with all things, your mileage may vary.

Example of a tutorial to support my teachers in their graduate classes

- This is a tutorial I made on the spur of the moment when a teacher asked for research help
- Often professors will tell their students to find scholarly, peer reviewed articles, without instructing them as to how to do so
- Teachers are often going back to school after some years off, so GALILEO has changed a lot in the interim
- Here's my quick tutorial: <https://youtu.be/ZBpYqY0XAh8>

Ready to try GALILEO outreach on your own?

- I'm excited to see what you come up with!
- My email is ccopeland@irwin.k12.ga.us
- My Instagram is @smilenotshush if you'd like to share there
- My Twitter is @smilenotshush as well
- If I can help, let me know

Questions?